

Senate Resolution 818

By: Senators Albers of the 56th and Beach of the 21st

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging Cherokee County and the Cities of Woodstock, Canton, Holly Springs, Ball Ground,
2 and Waleska to adopt annexation growth boundary agreements and joint land use plans; and
3 for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Cherokee County and Cherokee County's cities are among the fastest growing
5 areas in the State of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, population growth and development are expected to continue in Cherokee
7 County for the foreseeable future; and

8 WHEREAS, it is vitally important to protect the quality of life of all citizens of Cherokee
9 County by ensuring that growth and development are subject to intentional partnership and
10 planning between the county and its cities; and

11 WHEREAS, the lack of sufficient communication and partnership between local
12 governments in Cherokee County has resulted in heavily contested annexation processes
13 which have led to litigation, high taxpayer costs, and local property owners being adversely
14 impacted by the decisions of the governing bodies of local governments for which they have
15 no voice in electing; and

S. R. 818

- 1 -

16 WHEREAS, the Woodstock City Council, in a split 4-2 decision, decided to override a
17 unanimous recommendation for denial from its Planning and Zoning Commission, ignored
18 the requests for denial by the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners, and made a
19 decision that was in clear opposition to the will and concerns of the local residents by
20 approving a 2019 annexation on Arnold Mill Road; and

21 WHEREAS, this approval resulted in a major dispute litigation and conflict between county
22 officials and city officials which has brought further attention to this critical issue and has
23 risen to the attention of the General Assembly; and

24 WHEREAS, the costs of these contested annexations and land uses are entirely avoidable
25 with sufficient planning and should be unacceptable to all residents and taxpayers; and

26 WHEREAS, the General Assembly is committed to the principles of constitutional home rule
27 and local control in order to best serve the residents of the State of Georgia; and

28 WHEREAS, the General Assembly reminds all local governments that it charters cities and
29 maintains the right to intervene on behalf of Georgians in cases wherein local governments
30 fail to best represent and act on behalf of the interests of all residents and stakeholders.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
32 urge the governing authorities of Cherokee County and each of the cities located in Cherokee
33 County to establish jointly agreed upon annexation growth boundaries and joint land use
34 plans in order to reestablish trust with their constituents and avoid future, unnecessary
35 conflict.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body remind these local governing
37 authorities of their responsibility to serve all citizens in Cherokee County.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
39 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public.